

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in this application. Claims 19-22 have been withdrawn. Claims 1, 4-7, 13, 15, and 17-18 have been amended.

Claims 1-8, 11, 13-16, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. patent 5,116,318 to Hillstead, in view of U.S. patent 5,843,089 to Sahatjian. The remaining claims, 9-10, 12, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Hillstead and Sahatjian in view of Hyde et al. (EP 055396041) or Savin et al. (U.S. patent 4,950,227).


Without reaching the propriety of combining these references, the undersigned submits that all of the cited references fail to disclose or suggest "a compliant sheath located between the stent expansion balloon and the stent, wherein the coating is in contact with the sheath when the stent is unexpanded," as recited in claim 1. For at least this reason, claims 1-18 are patentable over the cited references.

Reconsideration in light of the above remarks is hereby requested.

Should the Examiner require any additional information regarding this Response, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4311.

Respectfully submitted,

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